

INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION OF NORTH DAKOTA

John Hoeven Governor Wayne Stenehjem Attorney General Roger Johnson Agriculture Commissioner

News Release Dec. 15, 2006 For Immediate Release

REHAB ACCESSIBILITY PROGRAM GRANT ALLOCATION INCREASED

BISMARCK – The Industrial Commission has approved a significant funding increase for the North Dakota Housing Finance Agency's (NDHFA) Rehab Accessibility Program (RAP). The Agency will allocate \$50,000 to the 2007 program, twice the previous commitment.

"Through RAP, we aim to enhance the quality of life for disabled North Dakotans," said Gov. John Hoeven. "We continue to hear from disability advocates that there is a shortage of funding for accessibility improvements for such households. We are pleased to authorize this increased commitment to meeting these needs."

Funding is dedicated to the renovation of single or multifamily properties occupied by low-income people with physical disabilities. Grant dollars can be used for improvements like wheelchair ramps, audio and visual smoke detectors, chair lifts, door hardware and other items that make living quarters more accessible for the disabled.

"Because making accessibility improvements can be expensive, NDHFA has also increased the maximum grant amount from \$2,500 to \$4,000," said Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson. "The program's grant match requirement was also lowered from 100 percent to 25 percent."

"RAP grants are limited to one per property in a calendar year," said Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem. "The households benefiting from the rehabilitation funding must earn 80 percent or less than the county median income adjusted for family size."

For an application or more information on the RAP funding, contact Janet Fischer at the NDHFA, (701) 328-8080, (800) 292-8621 or (800) 366-6888 (TTY). Information is also available online at www.ndhfa.org.

The Industrial Commission of North Dakota, consisting of Governor John Hoeven, as chairman, Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem and Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson, oversees the NDHFA.

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FURTHER INFORMATION: Sarah Mudder (701) 328-8080